AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended)   A <u>computer-implemented</u> method of retrieving data contained in a file storage system, comprising:

   providing a keyword, wherein the keyword includes:

      (i) a parameter comprising a first portion of the keyword, the parameter identifying the data, the parameter describing an attribute of the data; and

      (ii) a parameter value comprising a second portion of the keyword, the parameter value representing a particular quantity associated with the parameter;

      <u>(iii) a pointer comprising a third portion of the keyword, the pointer pointing to</u> <u>the data;</u>

   wherein the parameter and the parameter value are associated with the data contained in <u>a</u> <u>plurality of records, the records included in a document-based database having a plurality of</u> <u>documents stored in</u> the file storage system<u>, each of the plurality of records comprising one or</u> <u>more of the plurality of documents not stored in database tables</u>; and,

   retrieving the data in response to one or more search criteria associated with at least one of the parameter and the parameter value.

2. (Previously presented)   The method of claim 1, wherein the parameter is user-defined.

3. (Previously presented)   The method of claim 1, wherein the parameter and the parameter value are linked as a contiguous text string.

4. (Previously presented)   The method of claim 1, wherein the parameter further comprises a units designator, the units designator comprising a portion of the parameter, the units designator indicating the units of measurement for the parameter value.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Previously presented)   The method of claim 5, further comprising a plurality of keywords, the plurality of keywords begin an index of the data pointed to by one or more pointers contained within at least one of the plurality of keywords.

7. (Previously presented)   The method of claim 1, wherein the data contained in the file storage system is semi-structured data.

8. (Previously presented)   The method of claim 7, wherein the data contained in the file storage system is hypertext data.

9. (Previously presented)   The method of claim 1, wherein the data contained in the file storage system is unstructured data.

10. (Previously presented)   The method of claim 9, wherein the data contained in the file storage system is text data.

11. (Previously presented)   The method of claim 1, wherein the keyword is a first keyword, the data contained in the file storage system is first data contained in the file storage system and the parameter is a first parameter, further comprising a second keyword, the second keyword associated with second data contained in the file storage system, the second keyword having a second parameter, the second parameter not being a parameter of the first data contained in the file storage system.

12. (Canceled)

13. (Canceled)

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14. (Currently amended) In a file storage system having an index of keywords, each keyword
having a parameter and an associated parameter value, a <u>computer-implemented</u> method of
searching for data, comprising:

receiving a search criterion <u>relating to the data, wherein the data is contained in a</u>
<u>plurality of records, the records included in a document-based database having a plurality of</u>
<u>documents stored in the file storage system, wherein the search criterion further comprises a</u>
<u>parameter value for the parameter, the parameter value being based upon the data referred to by</u>
<u>the parameter,</u>

comparing the search criterion with the keywords in the index, and presenting the results
from the comparing step<u>;</u>

<u>wherein the keyword is a first keyword, the data contained in the file storage system is</u>
<u>first data contained in the file storage system and the parameter is a first parameter, further</u>
<u>comprising a second keyword, the second keyword associated with second data contained in the</u>
<u>file storage system, the second keyword having a second parameter, the second parameter not</u>
<u>being a parameter of the first data contained in the file storage system.</u>

15. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein the search criterion further comprises any
combination of one or more members of the group of:

a search criterion parameter, a search criterion parameter value, or a units designator for a
search criterion parameter value;

the search criterion parameter comprising a member of a set of all the parameters defined
in the data contained in the file storage system, the units designator indicating the units of
measurement for the search criterion parameter value.

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16. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein comparing the search criterion with the keyword further comprises:

representing the search criterion as a contiguous text string, and

comparing the contiguous text string with the keyword, using Boolean logic.

17. (Canceled)

18. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein the keyword further comprises a units designator for the parameter value, the units designator indicating the units of measurement for the parameter value.

19. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein the data contained in the file storage system is semi-structured data.

20. (Original) The method of claim 19, wherein the data contained in the file storage system is hypertext data.

21. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein the data contained in the file storage system is unstructured data.

22. (Original) The method of claim 21, wherein the data contained in the file storage system is text data.

23. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein the parameter is user-defined.

24. (Canceled)

25-33 (Canceled)